

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Full Council – 26 February 2020

Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation Improvements Scheme (TSFAIS)

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor for Climate Change (Cllr Peter Pilkington)

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1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Somerset West & Taunton (SWT) Council and the Environment Agency (EA) have been working in partnership over a number of years to identify strategic flood risk solutions for Taunton
- 1.2 Currently 1031 properties (residential, commercial and infrastructure) are at risk from river flooding along with the A38, A3027 Bridge St, A3027 Staplegrove Rd and the A3038 Station Rd. With no change in the current standard of flood protection the number of properties and infrastructure affected by flooding will get worse as flood risk will increase with climate change. 2548 current properties will be affected with the flood waters covering a larger area and greater depth in the areas of North Town, Firepool, Tangier, Bathpool, Wilton and the High Street.
- 1.3 An assessment of the existing flood defences highlights that these are insufficient to protect Taunton if a 1 in a 100 flood event occurred today. It is estimated that a single major flood in Taunton could cost the local economy approximately £50million.
- 1.4 The Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation Improvements Scheme (TSFAIS) Project Delivery Plan (PDP) sets the framework of measures to be implemented in phases over the next 30+ years which will reduce the current flood risk, and appropriately mitigate against the future impacts of climate change over the next 100 year period. The full PDP report sets out the conceptual design, budget cost estimates as well as the risks and benefits for each solution.
- 1.5 Appended to this report is a non tech summary. This explains the key recommendations of the PDP and how both SWT and the EA intend to practically develop the flood risk reduction options for Taunton that could be delivered over the next 10 to 30 years periods (from 2019/20) to manage the predicted impact on river flooding from climate change up to 2118.
- 1.6 SWT and the EA wish to continue to work in partnership to deliver the short term measures at Longrun Meadow and the town centre defence improvements on the left bank of the River Tone (Frieze Hill to Town Bridge). This will involve detailing the schemes to an appropriate design standard to secure the necessary consents to

enable a contract to be let for their delivery. These solutions permanently improve the level of flood protection in and around North Town and Firepool. They would, when implemented, negate the requirement for temporary demountable flood defence barriers, and the operational challenges faced with erecting these in times of flood, required for the Firepool development.

- 1.7 £6m capital funding has been identified to deliver the two short term measures above. A funding strategy will need to be developed for the remaining preferred approach. As there are a number of schemes with wider benefits, such as increased bio-diversity and public amenity, these may attract sources of funding wider than flood defence.
- 1.8 There is the opportunity to progress detailed design of a third scheme, raising the Firepool lock gate and earth bund between the river and canal. Subject to capital funding being identified, works could be undertaken whilst construction is taking place on the Firepool site. The works would be more difficult to implement after the Firepool development is built and it would cause disruption and potential blight for occupants of the Firepool development.

2 Recommendations

2.1 The recommendations are:

- 1. Accept the findings of the project development plan report and endorse the recommended strategic and long term approach to the management of flood risk in Taunton, listed in section 6 of the non-technical summary.
- 2. In partnership with EA to progress the identified short term priorities of: Longrun Meadow, the town centre defence improvements on the left bank of the River Tone (Frieze Hill to Town Bridge) and Firepool Lock to an appropriate design standard to secure the necessary consents and implementation.
- 3. Seek the approval of Full Council for the allocation of £6m capital funding from already earmarked Community Infrastructure Levy, New Homes Bonus and s106 contributions, to be apportioned in consultation with the S151 Officer, to progress the identified short term priorities of Longrun Meadow and improvements to the left bank of the River Tone (Frieze Hill to Town Bridge).
- 4. Use the project development plan as a basis for future investment planning. Develop a funding strategy to support implementation of the entire preferred approach, noting that a number of schemes have wider benefits such as increased bio-diversity and public amenity that may attract sources of funding other than flood defence related. Working with partners and stakeholders including the Environment Agency to secure appropriate national 'Flood Defence Grant in Aid' ((FDGiA) and Local Levy; Somerset River Authority grant; as well as partnership opportunities with Somerset County Council, Wessex Water; Natural England; Canal and Rivers Trust and others towards these schemes.
- 5. Note that consultation and engagement will take place with residents, stakeholders and partners on the individual schemes in the preferred approach as they progress to detailed design and necessary consents for implementation.

6. Support the appointment of dedicated project management capacity, to be funded from the capital allocation referred to above for an initial period of two years, to secure the necessary expertise and approvals to progress the shorter term priorities identified in recommendation 3, and to identify funding and wider opportunities as they arise.

3 Risk Assessment (if appropriate)

3.1 Draft Corporate risk register June 2019:

- 3.2 *CRx - Climate Change: Climate change is arguably the biggest risk to civilisation, and therefore should be considered as an inherent risk to the Council. Failing to mitigate or adapt to the climate change that is already in motion will result in more extreme weather events (storms, winter driving rain, drought, heatwaves), and rising sea levels which collectively pose a direct risk to the communities we serve, but also an indirect risk as a result of more extreme impacts felt elsewhere globally including food security and displacement of vulnerable populations. Risks also surround specific actions we take to mitigate and adapt to climate change. While we cannot control many of the things that need to happen to reduce the impact of climate change on the community, if we do not concentrate on what we can do there is a risk that a sense of futility will impede any action.*

Risk: Likelihood – 5, Impact – 5, Risk Rating – 25

Actions we're taking: We will complete the strategies, and associated action plans and projects, as soon as possible. This will require dedicated staffing resource and funding, and we will bring associated cases to the Council. Some actions/projects will require direct delivery by the Council (e.g. including on corporate emissions, planning and funding/investment decisions), some will require the Council to play an enabling/facilitating role (including policy setting, aggregating and collaborating with others), and some will require us to simply support others in delivering actions. A key role will also be lobbying Government.

Understanding climate change impacts and compliance with achieving the carbon neutrality target will be embedded into all decision making processes.

If we deliver on actions identified by the strategies then we will reduce both the likelihood and impacts of the risk a little, but without action being taken by Government or by others around the world, the risks cannot reduce significantly.

Mitigated Level of Risk: Likelihood – 5, Impact – 4, Risk Rating – 20

The TSFAIS is embedded within the Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan for SWT.

3.3 CRx - Major capital programme and project delivery

There is a risk that changing organisational priorities, financial restrictions or increased costs, lack of risk appetite, and lack of resource may impact on delivery of key capital projects and programmes. Reduced staffing levels may mean that we are unable to carry out the current capital project portfolio to the expected timelines, or that we may need to pause or cease working on some projects to adapt to new priorities. Significant additional costs may impact on our ability to deliver some capital projects.

Risk: Likelihood – 3, Impact – 4, Risk Rating – 12

SWT has developed an organisational PMO including a pipeline process.

SLT and the Executive will review the costed capital programme portfolio over the next five years and consider whether any priorities have changed and how we can schedule in new strategic projects within existing resource.

We will adopt new governance procedures for project approval that requires resource outside of existing staff and budgets within a Function, and convene programme and portfolio boards to ensure appropriate prioritisation of project work in line with strategic priorities

Mitigated Level of Risk: Likelihood – 2, Impact – 3, Risk Rating – 6.

The TSFAIS is listed on the PMO pipeline. Initial sources of funding have been identified to deliver important flood alleviation works at Longrun Meadow and new defence walls on the left bank for the Tone between Frieze Hill and Town Bridge. It is requested members support the development of a funding strategy to support implementation of the entire preferred approach, noting that a number of schemes have wider benefits such as increased bio-diversity and public amenity that may attract sources of funding other than flood defence related.

4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 Taunton has a history of river flooding with notable flood events being recorded in the 1960's, 2000 and smaller events in 2007 and 2012. Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation works were undertaken in the 1970's, and improved in the 1990's, and Longrun Meadow Flood Storage was completed in 2009.
- 4.2 The main source of flood risk in Taunton is from river flooding from the River Tone and its tributaries. One of the key reasons why flooding is a challenge to manage in Taunton is because there are multiple watercourses (Halse Water, Hillfarrance Brook, Norton Brook, Back Stream) joining the River Tone upstream, and within the town centre (Mill Lease Stream, Galmington Stream, Sherford Stream). When the River Tone is high, or bank full, this results in these smaller tributary watercourses being unable to discharge under gravity i.e. they become 'locked', causing a backup of water upstream, resulting in flooding along those tributaries near the Town centre. Flooding in nearby Bathpool is also complicated by multiple watercourses (Kingston Stream, Maiden Brook, Allen's Brook, Dyers Brook) joining the River Tone near the A38 Bridgwater Road. When the River Tone is high in this location this causes the Old River Tone outfall flap gates to close, limiting the release of flood waters from the Bathpool area. Without the flap gates, flood water from the main River Tone channel would travel back up the Old River Tone and would cause more frequent and serious flooding in Bathpool. There is also a second flood mechanism for Bathpool caused by excess flood water passing down the Bridgwater & Taunton canal from the River Tone overspilling into the canal at Firepool Lock. The canal does not have sufficient capacity for this extra flood flow therefore overtopping occurs along the right bank into the Maiden Brook and ultimately the Allen's Brook in Bathpool, where it causes flooding. There is also a formal side spill weir from the canal at Bathpool into the Dyer's/Allen's Brook. From EA records this last major flood occurrence was in November 2012, but significant flooding did also similarly occur in 2000 to a lesser degree.

- 4.3 River flooding in Taunton is managed by multiple Risk Management Authorities (RMA's, including EA, SCC and SWT). It is predominantly led by the EA, as the River Tone is classified as a 'Main River', using permissive legal powers to undertake scheduled condition inspections of the flood defences in the town centre, weekly checks on key assets and removal of any large debris and annual in-channel vegetation clearances.
- 4.4 Existing flood defences are insufficient to protect Taunton if a 1 in a 100 flood event occurred today. A "patch and mend" approach to existing flood defences does not provide a sufficient level of protection. There are approximately 1031 properties (residential, commercial and infrastructure) at risk and it is estimated that a single major flood event of this level in Taunton could cost the local economy approximately £50million. Essential infrastructure is also effected: A38, A3027 Bridge St, A3027 Staplegrove Rd and the A3038 Station Rd which provide access to essential services such as Avon & Somerset Police Station, SWT Council Offices, Train Station, Petrol Stations and food stores. When considering the impacts of climate change the total number of existing properties at risk increases to 2548 (1604 being residential properties). There are implications for utilities infrastructure: electricity substations, electricity generation, waste water infrastructure and management, water infrastructure, telecommunications exchanges and masts. The community infrastructure effected includes: nursing homes, care homes, health centres, dentists, nursery's, schools, community centres and halls, museums and galleries, emergency services, cemeteries, allotments, leisure facilities and open spaces.
- 4.5 SWT Council and the EA have been working in partnership over a number of years to identify strategic flood risk solutions for Taunton, including Bathpool, which can both reduce the current flood risk, and appropriately mitigate against the future impacts of climate change over the next 100 year period. The TSFAIS provides the framework to secure long term strategic protection for the town centre through the delivery of the flood options.
- 4.6 A significant number of scenarios have been tested using the EA's latest River Tone hydraulic model. The assessments identified:
- How a 1% AEP standard of protection could be achieved and maintained when considering climate change.
 - The ability or performance to reduce flood risk.
 - The costs to build and to maintain the option over its design life.
 - If the option could be phased (short, medium and long term) over a period of time to make it more affordable and easier to deliver.
 - Avoiding or minimising any increase in flood risk caused to other areas as a result of the new flood management interventions, including the Somerset Levels & Moors downstream.
- 4.7 The preferred approach are measures to be implemented in the next 30+ years as resources are secured to enable their delivery. This preferred approach is:

Works	Priority	Capital Cost £mill	Properties benefitting ¹	Other Benefits
Optimise Longrun Meadow (Fact Sheet LRM)	Short Term 0-10 years (funding identified)	3-5	687	Protection for Firepool regeneration site, Biodiversity Opportunity, Natural Flood Management.
Raised or new Defences River Tone (left bank) from Frieze Hill to Town Bridge (Fact Sheet TTC5)	Short Term 0-10 years (funding identified)	0.9-2	508	Protection for: Firepool regeneration site; key transport routes including A3027 (Bridge Street, Staplegrove Road) and A3038 (Station Road); and key infrastructure: Police Station, SWT Offices, BT Exchange, French Weir Surgery.
Raised or New Defences on the Tangier Tributaries (Fact Sheet TTC2)	Short Term 0-10 years	8-11	329	Reducing flood risk in and around Tangier including access to Castle Street and Third Way
Raised or new defences on the River Tone and its Tributaries (Fact Sheet TTC1)	Short, Medium and Long Term	ST 26-29 MT CC +6-9 LT CC +6-7	901 - Short Term 1,792 - Medium Term 2,426 - Long Term	Reduced flooding in North Town, Tangier, Firepool and Bathpool. Reduced risk of flooding on key transport routes: A38 at Manor Road, A3027 (Bridge Street, Staplegrove Road) and A3087 Station Road.
Raised Fire Pool Lock Gates, increased defences (left back) Obridge to Firepool (Fact Sheet TTC10)	Short Term 10-15 years but could come forward sooner, as site is developed	0.9-1	219	Reduce flood risk to Bathpool, Priorswood and Crown Industrial Estates and improve resilience to the Canal. Opportunity to bring forward and complete during construction of Firepool.

¹ Properties removed from the floodplain and those with reduced depth of flooding; information from TSFAI property count data.

Pumping station at Bathpool (Fact Sheet BP2)	Short Term 10-15 years	6-10	53	Provides protection for A38. Removes need to install temporary pumps, making response time quicker.
Preventing backflow from railway culverts (Fact Sheet BP0)	Short Term 10-15 years	0.3-0.5	0	Reduces flooding in Priorwood and Crown Industrial Estates, and some reduction in Bathpool. Potential for creation of new water based habitats upstream.
River Restoration and flood storage at Vivary Park (Fact Sheet VP)	Short Term 10-15 years	8-10	88	Opportunities for ecological and geomorphological improvements to the Sherford Stream and reduce siltation of ponds in Vivary Park, Biodiversity Opportunity, Natural Flood Management
Upstream storage at Bradford on Tone (Fact Sheet BoT)	Medium – Long Term 30+years	43-56	2137	Provides protection for town centre regeneration site
Raising Castle Street Bridge & Bus Station footbridge (Fact Sheet MS01)	As the opportunity arises	8-10	99	Reducing flooding around Tangier and the regenerations sites there.
Mill Stream flow diversion (Fact Sheet MS02)	As the opportunity arises	0.1	90	Reducing flooding in Tangier. Protects down stream bed and bank habitat. A tilting weir would protect fish, otter and other wildlife passage along the river.

- 4.8 To protect existing property in the town and to allow the town to develop safely a holistic and strategic flood risk reduction solution is required. The TSFAIS provides that framework. It also supports the regeneration of Taunton town centre, The Taunton Garden Town status, the Councils Climate Change and Resilience work.
- 4.9 The flood alleviation solutions required are varied, they include natural solutions such as the creation of wetland habitat and earth bunds as well as formal built structures

such as defence walls and a pumping station.

- 4.10 The redevelopment of Firepool remains a priority for the Council and the site is currently within the 1% AEP floodplain. Through the planning application process, site specific flood measures have been agreed in principal between the EA and the LPA to protect the site from flooding. These include land raising of the site ground levels and, subject to further detail, 300+ metres of temporary demountable defences alongside the left bank of the River Tone by French Weir park entrance near Clarence Street.
- 4.11 The optimisation of Longrun Meadow and the new flood defence walls on the left bank of the River Tone between Frieze Hill to the Town Bridge would replace the temporary demountable defences approach with a permanent solution, which would not only offset the operational challenges faced with erecting the temporary defence in times of flood, but offer a means to permanently improve the level of flood protection to the wider North Town community.
- 4.12 There is the opportunity to raise the Fire Pool Lock Gates and increase defences (left bank) Obridge to Firepool during the construction works on the Firepool site. This would enable good access for the works to the lock gates and banks, and remove disruption and blight to new residents of Firepool if the works were to occur after occupation.
- 4.13 Going forward detailed design work, specialist technical advice as well as stakeholder and public engagement is required to secure the necessary consents and permissions (i.e. planning permission, EA permit, Natural England licence agreement) to implement the short term schemes. It is therefore proposed that a dedicated project management resource be funded to deliver this.
- 4.14 Whist funds have been identified to deliver two of the short term measures the overall TSFAIS has a significant costs. A number of schemes have wider benefits such as increased bio-diversity and public amenity that may attract sources of funding other than flood defence related. It is therefore proposed that the dedicated project management resource mentioned above will source additional funding from partners and interested parties; and collaborative opportunities where they exist.
- 4.15 For context there are wider flood alleviation and mitigations measures happening across Somerset; being delivered by various partners. These include:

Hills to Levels (National UK Rivers Prize for 2018) – a range of projects with farmers, landowners and communities to ‘slow the flow’ to reduce flood risk, reduce erosion, improve water quality, deliver wider environmental benefits and increase resilience on the floodplain. Programs: leaky woody dams across headwater; soil husbandry and land management; run-off filter barriers; hedge planting; fish and eel mitigation maintenance of passages; buffers on high risk costs 6-10m strips of uncultivated land buffering water courses to slow field runoff and sediment transfer. In the SWT area Pond Desilting upstream of Bishop’s Lydeard to allow storage of an extra 3,700m³ of water at Cothelstone.

Somerset SPONGE - creating and improving green spaces, programmes included: retro-fitting Sustainable Drainage Systems, in the SWT area sites included Lyngford Park Primary and Holway Park Community Primary; and raingardens planted with pollinator friendly plants, native wetland plants and grasses at Middleway and Kilkenny

Court in Taunton, reduces flooding by preventing water going into the drain, prevents sewage system spills which damages local streams.

Water Injection Dredging (WID) – fluidising sediment so that it can flow naturally to deeper areas; works on the River Parrett downstream of Burrowbridge and silt monitoring, including river bed mapping, on the River Parrett and Tone.

Repairs to the River Avill Flood Relief Channel at Dunster - strengthening banks of the channel so as to maintain capacity to carry water away. Erosion protection at Gallox Bridge – 35 metre section of bank stabilised.

These, along with a number of other programs being delivered across the County, and the TSAIS will help to reduce and manage flood risk across our area.

5 Links to Corporate Strategy

5.1 The TSFAIS supports themes and objectives in the 2019 Corporate Strategy:

- Strategic Theme 1 – Our Environment and Economy: A low carbon, clean, green and prosperous district that attracts high quality employment opportunities and encourages healthy lifestyles.
 - Objective 2 – shape and protect our built and natural environment
 - Objective 7 – Facilitate the development of the commercial parts of the Firepool site
- Strategic Theme 3 – Homes and Communities: A district which offers a choice of good quality homes for our residents, whatever their age and income, in communities where support is available for those who need it.
 - Objective 1 – increase the number of affordable and social homes...
 - Facilitate the development of the residential blocks at Firepool, Taunton, in order to deliver new homes and public open space
 - Objective 7 – seek additional funding for new strategic infrastructure and regeneration projects from developers, investors, Government and other funders, which supports or enables existing and new communities within our district.

6 Finance / Resource Implications

- 6.1 The TSFAIS Phase 1 and 2 work has been funded by SWT (NHB), EA and received financial backing from the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) and a grant has also been earmarked from the Heart of the Southwest Local Economic Partnership (LEP).
- 6.2 The TSFAIS Project Development Plan provides budget cost estimates based on the conceptual designs for each scheme in the preferred approach, project costs and whole life cost. These have been sourced from the technical consultants, project cost tool and similar schemes elsewhere in the country. These figures help the Council with future planning of the TSFAIS preferred approach.

- 6.3 The preferred approach will need to be phased to make it affordable as it is unlikely to attract full or majority funding from central government Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA). Alternative funding sources have been identified by the SWT & EA Project Team.
- 6.4 In consultation with the S151 Officer the following funding has been identified to progress the two short term options of works at Longrun Meadow and raising the low spots on the left bank between Freeze Hill and Town Bridge.

S106	237,900	An earmarked reserve as "S106 ringfenced for flood prevention
NHB	2,762,100	Allocating from the £16m Growth Programme, and therefore committing against NHB income.
CIL	3,000,000	Allocating from the £15m CIL Programme agreed in principle, providing 50% of the funding and fully committing the CIL currently profiled for flood works
Total	6,000,000	

- 6.5 Throughout the progression of the TSFAIS the Council will be seeking to secure appropriate contribution towards these schemes from stakeholders and interested parties. As the many of the schemes have multiple benefits this may include: EA Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA), Wessex Flood Defence Levy, Somerset River Authority Grant, Housing Infrastructure Fund, Wessex Water, DEFRA Making Space for Water and Payments for Ecosystems.

7 Legal Implications (if any)

- 7.1 No direct legal implications as this stage.
- 7.2 The TSAFI PDP sets out the framework of preferred approaches for tackling flood risk in Taunton. Some of the approaches are on third party land or land subject to covenants. Early discussions have been taking place with Shape Legal on general matters pertinent to the progression of individual Phase 3 schemes; items such as ownership, riparian responsibilities, etc.
- 7.3 A new collaboration agreement for any phase 3 working between EA and SWT will be required

8 Climate and Sustainability Implications (if any)

- 8.1 The TSFAIS analysis identifies that with climate change the flood risk to Taunton will increase. If we do nothing to improve current standard of flood protection 2548 current properties will be at risk of flooding as well as transport routes A38, A3027, A3087 and A3038 (all Resilient Network routes into the Town Centre, to Taunton Train Station and key services including Royal Mail sorting office, SWT Deane House, Police Station, Post Office, BT Exchange, North Town Primary School, French Weir Health Centre, convenience shops and fuel stations). The preferred solutions reduce flood risk to these properties and essential infrastructure.
- 8.2 Some of the preferred approaches will increase biodiversity for example through the introduction of new wetland and ditch habitats. Some approaches will protect existing, or provide new, public open space which itself improves air quality and limits the

impact of heatwaves by reducing urban temperatures through natural cooling. Urban vegetation stores carbon and helps to reduce flooding by run-off.

- 8.3 The TSFAIS is embedded within the Climate Change and Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan.

9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications (if any)

- 9.1 No Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications at this stage.

10 Equality and Diversity Implications (if any)

- 10.1 The TSFAIS will benefit all persons because the works safe guard essential services and facilities including: nursing homes, care homes, churches, health centres, dentists, nursery's, schools, community centres and halls, emergency services (Avon & Somerset Police Station, South West Ambulance Service), SWT Council Offices, petrol stations and food stores. The flood alleviation and mitigation works will also protect key routes such as A38, A3027 Bridge St, A3027 Staplegrove Rd and the A3038 Station Rd which provide access to the Train Station and Hospital. The TSFAIS will also protect essential utilities infrastructure: electricity substations, electricity generation, waste water infrastructure and management, water infrastructure, telecommunications exchanges and masts.
- 10.2 There will be particular benefits for the protected characteristics of age (children and elderly; with regard to access to education and health care facilities), disability (for those with illnesses requiring access to health care facilities and carers ability to get to peoples homes), pregnancy and maternity (access to health care facilities), religion and belief (access to places of worship), carers (access to patients and local services and facilities supporting them).

11 Social Value Implications (if any)

- 11.1 There will be opportunities for including social value (economic, social or environmental benefits for the local area) within the individual schemes and future contacts associated with them.

12 Partnership Implications (if any)

- 12.1 SWT and the EA have been working in partnership over a number of years to identify strategic flood risk solutions for Taunton, including Bathpool, which can both reduce the current flood risk, and appropriately mitigate against the future impacts of climate change over the next 100 year period. The TSFAIS provides the framework to secure long term strategic protection for the town centre through the delivery of the flood options. SWT and the EA will continue to work together to deliver the preferred options.
- 12.2 A number of the preferred options provide multiple benefits beyond alleviation and mitigation of flood risk, they have wider benefits such as increased bio-diversity and public amenity that may attract other sources of funding. Going forward SWT will be working with a range of partners and stakeholders including: Somerset County Council; Somerset River Authority; Wessex Water; Natural England; Somerset Wildlife Trust; Canal and Rivers Trust; Friends Groups; Flood Risk Groups and others towards to progress the preferred approach.

- 12.3 A new collaboration agreement for any phase 3 working between EA and SWT will be required.

13 Health and Wellbeing Implications (if any)

- 13.1 The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Improving Lives Strategy 2019-2028 lists four priority areas.

- 13.2 The TSFAIS links to the following:

- **Priority One:** A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services:
 - *...we need to focus on the social and environmental factors that impact on people's lives. Education, employment, housing and connectedness all affect our mental and physical health and wellbeing...*
 - *A healthy home is one that is affordable, warm and stable, and somewhere that helps connect people to community, work and services*
- **Priority Two:** Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment
 - *Good places, indoor and outdoor spaces and buildings help people to be more physically active, use facilities and services, socialise and play.*
 - *Feeling safe and secure in the area they live and work has a significant impact on people's health and wellbeing.*
 - *People who have access to green space and the natural environment have more opportunities to be physically active. Furthermore, increasing access and participation in green spaces has an important positive impact on mental health.*
- **Priority Three:** Fairer life chances and opportunity for all.
 - Good education and lifelong skills can help to build the foundations for accessing good work, problem solving and feeling empowered and valued. Education also provides a basis for learning valuable healthy lifestyle skills such as healthy sexual behaviours, emotional resilience and healthy eating.
- **Priority Four:** Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer.
 - We want people to feel supported to live the life they aspire to, by helping them earlier and more efficiently. Providing the necessary care and support at home and in communities can enable people

to live independently for longer and reduce unnecessary admissions to hospital.

- People should feel supported to choose healthy and active lifestyles and improve their own physical and mental health and wellbeing. Some people will need more support than others but all partners should be doing what they can to provide the information and support for people to make positive lifestyle choices.

14 Asset Management Implications (if any)

- 14.1 Some of the preferred approach schemes are on land in the ownership or control of SWT including: Longrun Meadow; some areas along the Tone; and Vivary Park. Other TSFAIS are on land owned or controlled by EA (small parcels of land along the river corridor) or third parties, for example at Bradford on Tone.
- 14.2 TSFAIS on land owned or in the control of SWT or EA will likely be simpler to deliver.
- 14.3 As part of the detailing of the preferred options any landowner or asset implications (such as future maintenance agreements) will be considered.

15 Data Protection Implications (if any)

- 15.1 No data protection implications at this stage

16 Consultation Implications (if any)

- 16.1 The TSFAIS is a technical document presenting objective information on flood risk for Taunton both now and as a result of climate change. It presents a preferred approach to addressing that flood risk based on objective analysis of various mitigation and management options.
- 16.2 Consultation will be undertaken going forward with stakeholders and interested parties, as each of the preferred options is progressed.

17 Scrutiny Comments / Recommendation(s) (if any)

- 17.1 It was the recommendation of the Chair of Scrutiny that the TSFAIS went to a full members briefing instead of the Scrutiny Committee. This took place on Monday 14 October and was attended by 29 Members.

18 Executive Comments / Recommendation(s) (if any)

- 18.1 Executive on 22 January 2020 supported the recommendations set out in Section 2 of this report.

Democratic Path:

- **Scrutiny / Corporate Governance or Audit Committees – No**
- **Cabinet/Executive – Yes**

- **Full Council – Yes**

Reporting Frequency: ☐ **Once only**

List of Appendices (delete if not applicable)

Appendix A	TSFAIS Non-technical Summary
Appendix B	TSFAIS FAQ's
Appendix C	TSFAIS EIA

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